Peas in a Pod

Yousuke Takahashi

I'M KUROIWA HIKIKO AND EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I'VE DESPISED SHIRAKAWA TAEKO. THE FEELING'S MUTUAL.
THE BITCH
ME
OUR HATE GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO OUR KINDERGARTEN DAYS, WHEN SHE TRIED TO TAKE MY FAVOURITE DOLL.
NO, IT'S MIIINNNNEEE!
IT'S MIIIINNNNEEE!

THROUGH ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND NOW HIGH-SCHOOL...
OUR RIVALRY CONTINUED AS FIERCE AS EVER.
I COMPETED AGAINST HER IN STUDIES, SPORTS, EVERYTHING.

ボキッ!!
HIKIKO, DID YOU HEAR? TAEKO WAS IN A CAR CRASH!
YEAH, I KNOW. SHE BROKE HER LEG BECAUSE OF IT.
SERVES HER RIGHT!

SHE'S HOSPITALIZED TOO!
I BET YOU SHE'S GRINDING HER TEETH IN FRUSTRATION RIGHT NOW!
SHE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR NEXT WEEK'S TEST,
MEANING YOU'LL BE AT THE TOP OF THE GRADES THIS TIME!
HEE HEE!
!!
HIKIKO!?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
THE INCIDENT LEFT ME HOSPITALIZED WITH A BROKEN LEG...

TAEKO'S RIGHT EYE HAD SWOLLEN UP JUST LIKE MINE.

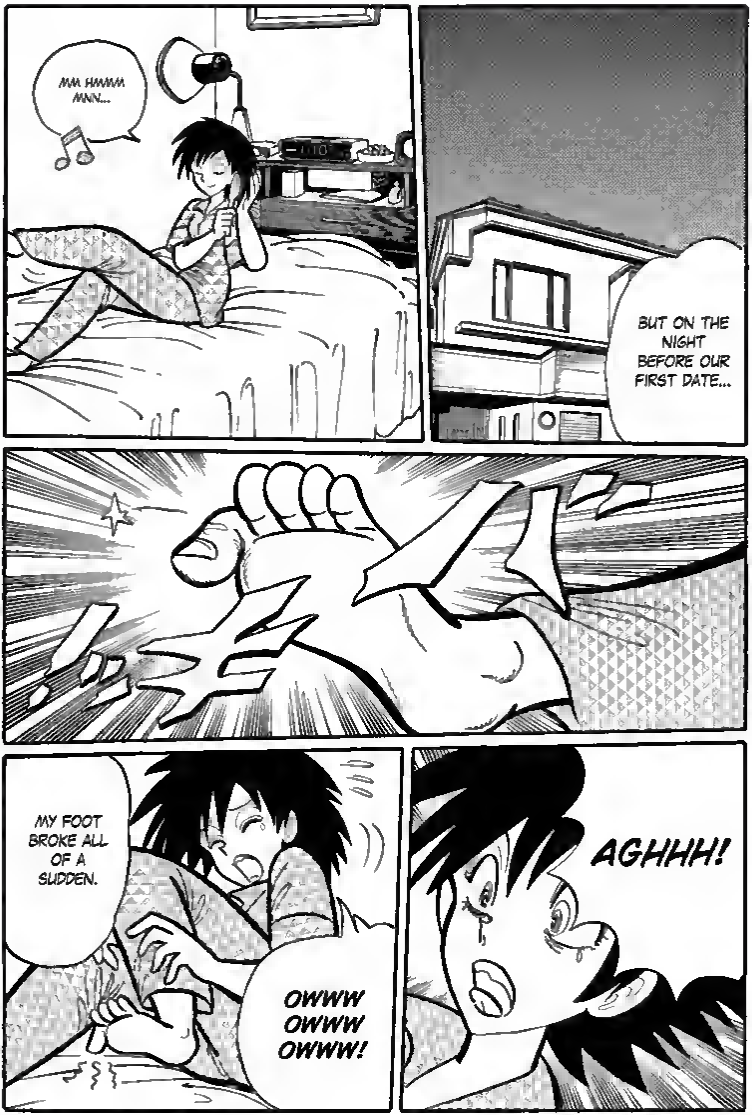
IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME, I NOTED JUST HOW PECULIAR THIS ALL WAS.

WHENEVER I GOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WOUND,
TAEKO WOULD SOON GET INJURED AT THE VERY SAME SPOT.
FOR INSTANCE, IF TAEKO SKINNED HER KNEE,
THEN I WOULD SOON FALL AND SKIN MY KNEE AS WELL.
AS THESE INCIDENTS REPEATED THEMSELVES, TAEKO SEEMS TO HAVE ALSO REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON, THOUGH NEITHER OF US HAVE DIRECTLY BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE.
...IT WAS UNSETTLING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

TOMIOKA!
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO FOR OUR NEXT DATE?
I'LL MAKE SOME BOXED LUNCHES FOR US.
ワナワナ
……!
TOMIOKA SHUUICHI WAS A BOY I HAD SET MY SIGHTS ON FOR SOME REASON, THE BITCH SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME TASTE IN BOYS AS ME.
I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

HIKIKO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING AT 2 IN THE MORNING!?
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD!
ゴオオオ
IT'S FINE, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, MOM.
ACHOO!
I'M TRYING TO CATCH A COLD RIGHT NOW.

UGHHH...
FOR 3 DAYS AFTER, I LAY IN BED WITH A 38-DEGREE FEVER.
UGHHH...
FORTUNATELY, TAEKO ALSO CAUGHT A COLD AND HAD TO CANCEL HER DATE WITH TOMIOKA.
TOMIOKA!
HEH HEH... SERVES YOU RIGHT...
SOME TIME AFTER, I BEGAN GOING OUT WITH TOMIOKA.
WHERE SHOULD WE GO FOR OUR DATE?


MM HMMM MMN...
BUT ON THE NIGHT BEFORE OUR FIRST DATE...
MY FOOT BROKE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
OWWW OWWW OWWW!
AGHHH!

HEH, SERVES YOU RIGHT!
I IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THIS WAS TAEKO'S DOING.
SHE SACRIFICED HER BODY TO LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK ON MY DATE TOMORROW.
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANNA PLAY IT, TAEKO, THEN FINE!
KYAAA!

GAHHHH!
OH, SHE DID NOT JUST GO THERE!
DIE!
DAMN THIS SKANK-ASS BITCH...
AGHH-
MNNFF... UGHHH...

ハァハァ…
I'LL KILL HER!
I'LL KILL HER...
ビービー
DIE!!!

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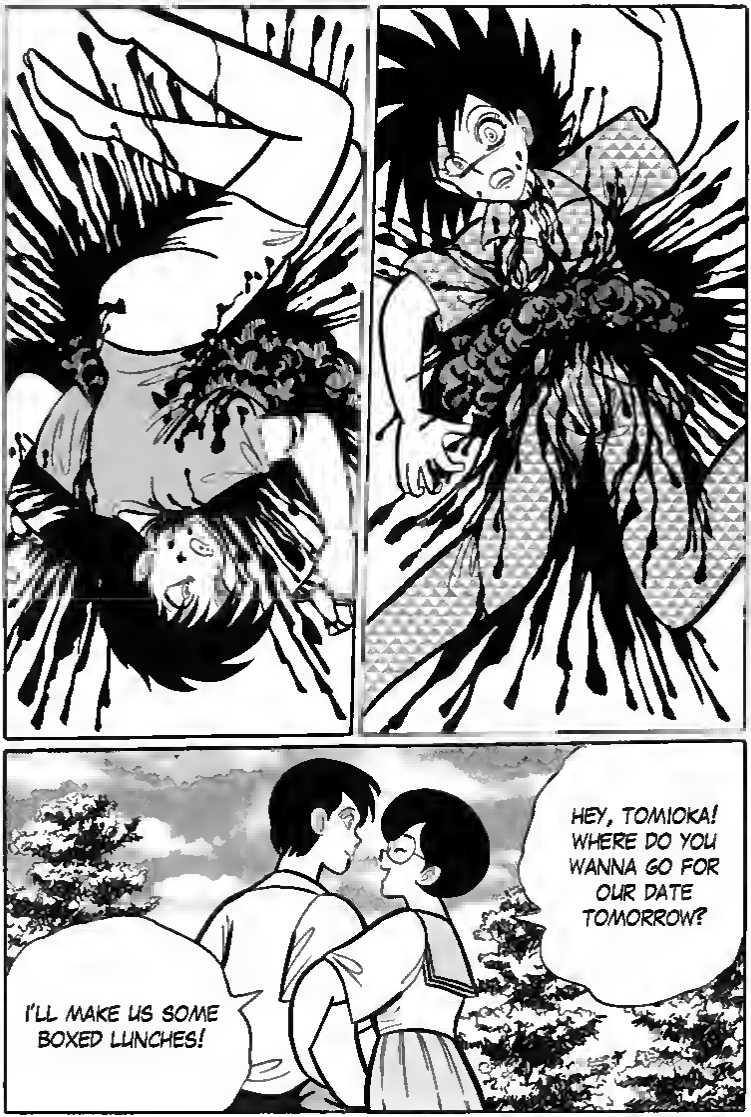
HEY, TOMIOKA! WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO FOR OUR DATE TOMORROW?
I'LL MAKE US SOME BOXED LUNCHES!